



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Tri-Community Flooding Group Minutes 02/08/2011

### Tri-Community Working Group Meeting Minutes -- 2/8/2011

The Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011 meeting of the Tri-Community Working Group for Flooding Issues was held at 6:00 pm, in the second-floor meeting room of Arlington Town Hall.

#### Attending:

Owen O'Riordan  
 Mike Rademacher  
 Steve Revilak  
 Clarissa Rowe  
 Jennifer Wright  
 Catherine Daly-Woodbury

Approval of Nov. 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The Nov. 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes were approved.

#### Discussion of Meeting Dates

The Tri-Community's 2011 meeting schedule is:

- ñ April 12th
- ñ June 14th
- ñ August 9th
- ñ October 18th (This is the third Tuesday of the month.)
- ñ December 13th

#### Discussion of the 2011 Snow Melt

The DEP may issue waivers for disposal of snow into flowing (not standing) bodies of water. Typically, these waivers require approval from both the DEP and the local conservation commission.

Hopefully, we will not be forced to deal with heavy March rains, and an abundance of unmelted snow.

#### Goals for 2011

Cambridge plans to conduct a vulnerability assessment and planning effort. This effort will take place over the next two years, and will consider flood control measures.

Arlington has applied for a FEMA grant, to be used for flood prevention in the Mill Brook/Colonial Village area. This is a three-million dollar grant, which requires a 25% contribution from the town. The Mill Brook/Colonial Village area has been subject to repeated flood loss, with approximately 40 residences displaced during recent flooding events. Arlington would also like to explore the possibility of using the Great Meadows for stormwater storage during significant flooding events.

#### New Business/Other Business

**Flood Insurance.** FEMA has extended the grandfathering period for flood insurance premiums. This is not a permanent grandfathering. Instead, the extension is a transitional period, to help ease residents into the need for purchasing flood insurance.

**Elevation Certificates.** An elevation certificate specifies the elevation of a structure. Elevation certificates are one way to go about obtaining a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). The certificate must be issued by someone who is licensed to take elevation measurements. When contacting an engineer or surveyor for an elevation study, it's advisable to ask for two cost estimates: (1) the cost of determining elevation, and (2) the cost of completing the elevation certificate. If the elevation study shows that your building is below the base flood elevation, then you may be able to avoid the cost of completing the certificate paperwork.

Elevation studies are usually not beneficial when a building lies entirely within a flood zone, but they may be beneficial when a building lies on the edge of a flood zone.

**Aberjona River Project.** Winchester's Aberjona River Project is believed to have been given the green light. Attendees did not know if a work schedule had been developed, nor did they know about coordination efforts with downstream communities.

**Blair Pond Dredging Project.** The Blair Pond dredging project is almost ready to go out to bid. Work is scheduled to take place this spring.

**Cambridge CSO Closures.** Last year, Cambridge began a project to close several CSOs near the intersection of Mass. Ave and Alewife Brook Parkway. This project is still ongoing. The CAM-400 CSO should be closed by March.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:58 pm.

